

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T STATE 248533

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, MO, US, UN, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: (A) TOSEC 1600;3 (B) SECTO 16044

TUNIS EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

1. IN LIGHT OF ICJ ADVISORY OPINION, REPORT ON UN COMMIS-
SION AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, NOTABLY KING HASSAN'S
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED CIVILIAN MARCH ON SAHARA AND
SPANISH REQUEST FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, DEPARTMENT
HAS DECIDED TO MAKE SIMULTANEOUS APPROACHES TO KING HASSAN,
FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA AND UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM URGING THAT
PRECIPITOUS ACTION BE AVOIDED AND DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES
BE EXPLORED WITH VIEW TO ATTAINING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE

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AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SAHARA. SEE SEPTELS FOR MESSAGES

TO RABAT AND USUN.

2. YOU SHOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH CORTINA OR ROVIRA, AS YOU JUDGE BEST, TO CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ADVISORY OPINION BY ICJ, FOLLOWED BY HASSAN'S CALL FOR PEACEFUL MARCH INTO SAHARA, HAS INTRODUCED NEW ELEMENTS IN SAHARAN QUESTION.

B. USG BELIEVES, DESPITE MOROCCAN ACTIONS, THAT DIPLOMATIC APPROACH HAS NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED AND POSSIBILITY OF

PEACEFUL SOLUTION REMAINS OPEN. INDEED, THE ACTION BY THE UN BODIES MAY HAVE CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH SOLUTION.

C. WE HAVE SUPPORTED SPAIN'S REQUEST FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND HOPE IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OTHER DIPLOMATIC ALTERNATIVES WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHICH EVERYONE DESIRES AND WE HOPE YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE OPEN MINDED ABOUT THE PRECISE MEANS OF ADVANCING THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

D. OUR HOPE IS THAT UN MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE, BUT THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD NOT BE HELPED BY ANGRY PUBLIC DEBATES WHICH WOULD HARDEN THE ATTITUDES OF THE PARTICIPANTS. INGERSOLL

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